GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:58
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
US POLITICIANS VISIT TO KASHMIR
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recent past top U.S. political figures visited Kashmir:

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit:

(c) whether the Government were aware of their itinerary in the State; and

(d) if not, the facts thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

[a] The only US political figure to have visited Kashmir recently is Mr. David Bonior, a member of the US Congress, who visited Srinagar on April 27-28, 2000 in the course of his visit to India from April 24-29, 2000.

[b] Mr. Bonior had stated that this visit was for familiarising himself with India and to better understand the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Such visits by foreign political personalities provide an opportunity to convey India`s position on Jammu and Kashmir and to present an accurate picture of the situation in that State, including the extent of cross-border terrorism in the State as well as the efforts being made by the Central and State Governments to promote the welfare of the people.

[c] Government had received prior intimation through the Embassy of India, Washington of Congressman Bonior`s programme.

[d] Does not arise.